

Books Received in the Week Ending May 14

Fiction.

THE CUP OF FURY. By RUFERT HUGHES. War romance with scenes in London, Washington, Baltimore, and at a shipyard. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.75.

THE WICKED MARQUIS. By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM. A story of revenge with an English countryside setting. Not like Mr. Oppenheim's latest yarns except that the central character is of the aristocracy. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$1.50.

THE AMERICAN HEART. By DOROTHY PROOKS. A story told in letters exchanged between Kitty, a patriotic American girl, and Billy, an American boy of German parentage. Kansas City, Mo.: Burton Publishing Company, 509 East Ninth street. \$1.

THE SHADOW OF THE PAST. By F. E. MILLS YOUNG. A story of German intrigue on the South African veldt. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50.

HIDDEN TREASURE. By JOHN THOMAS SIMPSON. "The story of a chore boy who made the old farm pay." Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$1.50.

THE FIRE FLINGERS. By WILLIAM J. NEIDIG. Richard Hutton passes himself off as a dead man, deceiving even the dead man's wife; among the complications arising is a love affair between the new husband and the wife. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.

THE TALE OF MR. TUBES. By J. E. BRUCKROSE. Story of England in the farce-comedy vein by the author of *The Gossip Shop*. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50.

THE VALLEY OF THE SQUINTING WINDOWS. By BRINSLEY MACNAMARA. A realistic and merciless picture of Irish village life in which an ideal love is back grounded against mean gossip. New York: Brentano's. \$1.50.

THE SILENT MILL. By HERMANN SUDERMANN. A triangle story by the famous German novelist dealing with two brothers, devoted to each other, and with the older brother's marriage. New York: Brentano's. \$1.25.

SECOND MARRIAGE. By VIOLA MEYNELL. The author is a daughter of Wilfred and Alice Meynell. The story deals with the marriages of daughters of a family living for many generations in a remote corner of England. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50.

Biography.

THE STORY OF GEN. PERSHING. By EVERETT T. TOMLINSON. Mr. Tomlinson's book was delayed, we are told, that everything in it might be verified. He has tried to write a story of his subject that may be read by every member of the family, old or young. Illustrated with photographs. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

War Books.

FIGHTING THE FLYING CIRCUS. By CAPT. EDWARD V. RICKENBACKER. Rickenbacker was commanding officer of the Ninety-fourth Pursuit Squadron of the United States Air Service. This was the "Hat in the Ring" squadron which did much to put von Richthofen's Flying Circus out of business. Rickenbacker has twenty-six German aircraft to his credit. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. \$1.50.

THE NAVY AND THE NATION. By JOSEPHUS DANIELS. These are addresses made throughout war by the Secretary of the Navy. There are thirty-six of them of some length. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$2.

FOCH THE MAN. By CLARA E. LAUGHLIN. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. \$1.25.

DINSMORE ELY: ONE WHO SERVED. Dinsmore Ely, son of Dr. James O. Ely of Winnetka, Ill., was killed in flight near Villacoublay, France. These are his letters home. Chicago: A. C. McElurg & Co. \$1.25.

Verse.

TYPES OF PAN. By KEITH PIGSTON. Light verse, including adaptations in modern slang of Greek and Roman poetry. Much of it appeared in Chicago and New York papers. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$1.25.

A HUNDRED AND SEVENTY CHINESE POEMS. Translated by ARTHUR WALEY. Includes 140 poems which have not been translated before and is prefaced by some observations on Chinese literature and technique, the method of translation and bibliographical notes. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.

NURSERY RHYMES OF NEW YORK CITY. By LOUIS HOW. Forty-nine poems about all sorts of places from Washington Square to Astoria. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$1.

Spiritism.

THE TWENTIETH PLANE: A PSYCHIC REVELATION. Reported by ALBERT DURRANT WATSON. Dr. Watson of Toronto is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and president of the Association of Psychical Research, Canada. The medium used, Louis Benjamin, is not considered capable of either the thought or the language used. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co. \$2.

Textbooks.

HOW TO STUDY "THE BEST SHORT STORIES." By BLANCHE COLTON WILLIAMS. An analysis of Edward J. O'Brien's annual volumes of the best short stories of the year prepared for the use of writers and other students of the short story. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50.

Reconstruction.

BRITISH LABOR AND THE WAR: RECONSTRUCTORS FOR A NEW WORLD. By PAUL U. KELLOGG and ARTHUR GLEASON. The appendices, which contain all the important documents recording the attitude of British labor throughout the war, bring this book to 500 pages. The book proper consists of somewhat over 300 pages. It is divided into five parts—*The British Labor Offensive, The Western Front of Labor, The England They Are Fighting For, Workers' Control and The New Alignment*. New York: Boni & Liveright. \$2.

COLLAPSE AND RECONSTRUCTION: EUROPEAN CONDITIONS AND AMERICAN PRINCIPLES. By SIR THOMAS BARCLAY. The author is an English authority on international law and lays down general principles to serve as the basis of a permanent peace. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$2.50.

THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS. By LOUISE FARGO BROWN. In ten sections, beginning with Roman maritime laws and ending with a discussion of the law of the sea likely to be developed from the experience of nations in the war just ended. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.

THE POLITICAL FATE OF DOBROUDJA AFTER THE BERLIN CONGRESS. By MILAN G. MARCOFF. Second edition of a pamphlet published by the Dobroudja Organization in Bulgaria. Sofia, Bulgaria: The Dobroudja Organization in Bulgaria, Ploshad Tchernia Djamia, 5. One franc 30 centimes.

Religion.

THE SECRET OF THE CROSS: A PLEA FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF CHRISTIANITY. By EDMOND HOLMES. Reviewing the doctrinal position of the Christian churches, Mr. Holmes finds discrepancy between the real spirit of Christianity and the outward forms which are supposed to embody it. He calls for a restatement of spiritual aims and of a regrouping of spiritual forces. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.

Labor.

THE SIX HOUR DAY AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL QUESTIONS. By LORD LEVERHULME. Lord Leverhulme makes Sunlight Soap in Port Sunlight, a modern industrial city, where he has actually tried the experiment and arrived at the conclusions set forth in his book. New York: Henry Holt & Co. \$3.50.

The Blind.

VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS. By SIR ARTHUR PEARSON. The author, who became blind some years ago, is founder and director of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50.

History.

THE DRAMATIC STORY OF OLD GLORY. By SAMUEL ABBOTT. A popular history of the American flag, with an inclusion of episodes in the war just ended. Foreword by James M. Beck. New York: Boni & Liveright. \$1.60.

A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By CECIL CHESTERTON. A popular history, written primarily to tell Englishmen about this country and interesting because of emphasis on Andrew Jackson and on the civil war as a war to sustain the Union and not to end slavery. Completed while in active service in France, where he died, Cecil Chesterton's book has an introduction by his brother, Gilbert K. Chesterton. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$2.50.

THE CENTURY OF HOPE: A SKETCH OF WESTERN PROGRESS FROM 1815 TO THE GREAT WAR. By F. S. MARVIN. Here political history is largely relegated to a minor place and chapters deal with nineteenth century progress in literature, invention, biology, education and internationalism. Bibliography and index. New York: Oxford University Press. \$3.

Essays.

CHIMNEY-POT PAPERS. By CHARLES S. BROOKS. Essays on such subjects as *Going to a Party, On a Pair of Leather Sus-penders, On Livelihoods, Boots for Run-aways*. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$2.

NOWADAYS. By LORD DUNSANY. About 3,000 words on the writing of poetry. Boston: The Four Seas Company.

PAINTING. By W. A. SINCLAIR. A 2,000 word essay. Boston: The Four Seas Company.

AUPRES DE VICTOR HUGO. By M. C. POINSON. In French. Essays and criticisms on such subjects as the ideal, the strenuous life, poetry, words and deeds, &c. Paris: Librairie Garnier Freres, rue des Saints-Pères, 6. Three francs 50 centimes.

Drama.

THE MARSH MAIDEN AND OTHER PLAYS. By FELIX GOULD. The other plays are *The Stranger* and *In the Marshes*. All short pieces. Boston: The Four Seas Company.

Popular Science.

OPPORTUNITIES IN CHEMISTRY. By ELLWOOD HENDRICK. One of a series called *Opportunity Books*. For the man who thinks he wants to be a chemist. New York: Harper & Brother. 75 cents.

Miscellaneous.

VICTORY AND OTHER LIBERTY LOAN ACTS. The text of the Liberty Loan acts and excerpts from other acts of Congress concerning public debt. Marginal index. New York: Bankers Trust Company.

"The Oracle of Color" and Other Matters

IT'S a fine thing to let loose with a pen in your hand. For the pen is in a manner a planchette and the mind is a veritable ouija board—and the ouija board never lies. It reproduces faithfully our desires, our inner longings, our secret wishes. It is so with the pen that no thought guides outside of itself.

In *The Oracle of Color* William Kiddier "lets loose." It is tiny book of sixty pages, made up of nineteen essays. It is exquisitely uttered—to himself, for himself and by himself; hence everybody should be interested in it. Mr. Kiddier is an English tramp painter. He paints with the pigments of the English alphabet as well as with those smeared on his palette. Personally, we love words more than things, having a theory that speech preceded sight. Things have no meaning until we give them a name. Can a thing exist without a name?

The profoundest of all epigrams is this: "In the beginning was the Word," uttered, we believe, by the Supreme Artist of all things. Each letter in the alphabet is a tiny color box. Dip the brush of your thought into them and you have a poem, an essay or a gas bill. It is a greater thing to have been the author of *Hamlet* than to have been the Sweet Prince of Irony himself.

The essays of Mr. Kiddier are on every

subject, with Color as the hidden or overt theme of all. Life to him is color. Color is the ultimate mystery. Life does not evolve; it vibrates in the immeasurable crucibles of space. What we call change is merely a redistribution of colors in the magic paint pot of the mind. A black eye is merely a change of pigments. The blow and the social effect are negligible. It was Arthur Rimbaud who said in a famous essay that shook literary France to the depths of its Sorbonne, that the vowels were colored sounds, and he named them. Without color contrasts nothing would exist. We speak of "blue Mondays," "red letter days" and "white nights." We "see red" when we receive the black eye. A red flag on Fifth avenue might lead to civil war. We have seen paintings of Chopin's *Funeral March* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* that were brickbats of color. We have many a time and oft in the chilly morn made the room blue when the hot water refused to run in the tub. Mr. Kiddier is right. We think, dream and live in color. Whatever is, is color. Whatever has not color does not exist. The colorless is the ultra-violet of Nothing.

"That no word," says Mr. Kiddier, "was said about color in the account of the Creation is the sublime silence with which the prophet leaves the matter to the poet, the painter. What a superb legacy! I will tell it. Impossible! But I will just talk. I know that color is beyond words. But is it not above paint? But we are poets and painters; we live in attempting the impossible!"

Again: "Once in an idle moment, when my indifference had reached the stage wherein vision is dead, when a tree looks like a tree, as timber is timber and a field a few acres of earth, and no more, I was aroused by the sound of these words: What is color? . . . It was a child's. When I looked down upon its nut brown head and into its wondrous nut brown eyes the child repeated the words, as a bird repeats its notes, and danced like a fairy. It is the way innocence mocks at intelligence and plays tricks with stale

judgment. . . . I smiled because I could give no answer; none was necessary. The child had touched upon a mystery. I bowed to the glory of the unexplored."

He writes of love and illusion. They are both terms of color. Of rhythm he says "it is a sense, not a theory." It is a "divine sense . . . is the eternal outlaw." He insists on the charm of recurrence. Recurrence is his clock. Whatever has been will be and that which is has been. He puts here into sentimental phrasing that tremendous philosophical concept of Nietzsche which the latter named the Eternal Return, which is the curved and colored lasso of God, the cycles of Brahma, the rhythmic resurrections of all things.

Dialect is melody and color—"Soft winged speech attuned to the ear without any regard for the rules of philologists." So Mr. Kiddier runs on in beautiful, careless, bubbling prose dithyrambs on the things he loves—the things that all finely attuned spirits love. "History is the posthumous painting of the potentate's mask and the embalming of the public carcass." He hates the "recorders of facts"—they have no soul. "If they had the world would kill them." He washes himself clean in the sunlight, raindrops and the laughter of little children. "Genius," he says rightly, "may be farther away from the clever people than from ordinary ones." "The bare truth is that the work of genius is not good or bad, but

original." Which puts the O. K. on Mary MacLane.

There is, however, one chapter in *The Oracle of Color* which stands out all alone as a little literary masterpiece. It is entitled *God and the Gypsy*. A beautiful piece of mystical humor. The gypsy is a symphony of color. His life is a kaleidoscope. "Black eyes are the symbol of the heart's mystery which in the gypsy can never be solved." "The first gypsies were the first man and woman—the Lord expelled them from Eden. In their end it is their fate to be driven from little Edens by little lords." Also, "They steal all their lives; but they do not enrich themselves like honest men." *God and the Gypsy* is a chapter that Robert Louis Stevenson would have loved.

There are many faults in Mr. Kiddier's book; but we are not critics, nor even book reviewers. We merely love books and tell the way they affect us. This one gave us great pleasure because it is real, unaffected and struck at the heart and brain.

THE ORACLE OF COLOR. By WILLIAM KIDDER. A. C. Fifield, London. Two shillings.

The honor of having fourteen of his books reprinted at one time seems to belong to Joseph A. Altsheler alone. D. Appleton & Co. are taking the chance that boys will remain boys, and the presses have started.

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Eleanor Hallowell

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